

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 IO-14 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

SCI-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 STR-08 CCO-00 USSS-00

DRC-01 /191 W

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O P 021358Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8481

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HAMBURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15843

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

HEIDELBERG FOR AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, LY, GW

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SUBJECT: LARG WARNING TO FRG ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: TRIPOLI 1386

1. SUMMARY. LARG DEMARCHE TO FRG WITH THREAT TO CUT OFF FRG OIL SUPPLIES REPORTED IN GERMAN PRESS NOVEMBER 2. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT ECONOMICS MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE IN OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 1 HOLIDAY TO DISCUSS FRG RESPONSE AND POSSIBLE DOMESTIC MEASURES, SIMILAR TO ONES TAKEN BY THE NETHERLANDS, TO MEET CRISIS. REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR OIL COMPANIES ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET ON NOVEMBER 2 WITH FRG MINISTRY OFFICIALS. A CUT-OFF OF LIBYAN OIL TO FG COULD HAVE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT THAN IS APPARENT FROM ITS 25 PERCENT SHARE OF TOTAL FRG SUPPLIES, SINCE LOW SULPHUR LIBYAN CRUDE IS BLENDED BY MOST FRG REFINERIES. END SUMMARY

2. THE LARG WARNING TO THE FRG, AS REPORTED BY REFTEL, WAS CARRIED IN NEWS REPORTS, NOVEMBER 2, IN FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, ZEITUNG (FAZ) AND BONN NEWSPAPER, GENERAL ANZEIGER (GA).

3. IN A FAZ STORY FROM BONN, THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT THE FONOFF CONFIRMED THAT THE LARG HAD ASKED THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN TRIPOLI FOR A CLARIFICATION ON THE FRG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND THAT THE FRG WOULD SEND AN ANSWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE FONOFF DENIED THAT THE LARG HAD THREATENED TO CUT OFF SUPPLIES TO THE FRG. THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG, DAGHELI, IS QUOTED AS REFUSING TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE EXISTANCE OF ANY ULTIMATUM. IN A REPORT FROM HAMBURG, (WHERE THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES ARE LOCATED) THE FAZ STATES THAT THE LARG HAS GIVEN THE FRG AN ULTIMATUM THREATENING A CUT OFF UNLESS THE FRG PROVIDES A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION BY NOVEMBER 6 OF ITS MIDDLE EAST ATTITUDE.

4. IN A STORY, THE GA REPORTED THAT THE NETHERLANDS HAD RECEIVED, PRIOR TO THE LIBYAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS DUTCH BOYCOTT, A SIMILAR LIBYAN DEMAND THAT THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT PROVIDE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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MIDDLE EAST ATTITUDE. THE GA STATED, HOWEVER, IT COULDN'T CONFIRM FROM THE FONOFF IF THE FRG HAD RECEIVED CUT-OFF THREAT. THE GA SAYS THAT A SPECIFIC

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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DRC-01 /191 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8482

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15843

OIL INFORMATION SERVICE WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE COMPANIES

MAINTAINS THAT THERE WILL BE A CUT-OFF OF DIRECT AND

INDIRECT, I.E. FROM THIRD COUNTRIES, LIBYAN SUPPLIES

TO THE FRG, IN THE ABSENCE OF A CLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

FROM THE FRG. THE PAPER REPORTS THERE WERE MEETINGS

DURING THE NOVEMBER 1 HOLIDAY IN THE FRG ECONOMICS

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MINISTRY TO CONSIDER DOMESTIC MEASURES, SUCH AS RATIONING, TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF AN OIL CUT-OFF. THE GA ALSO REPORTS THAT A WEEK AGO QUADDAFI WROTE BRANDT A LETTER IN WHICH, THE PAPER SURMISES, QUADDAFI DREW BRANDT'S ATTENTION TO THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF A UNILATERAL FRG DECISION TO TAKE SIDES IN THE CONFLICT. FINALLY, THE PAPER MENTIONS A PUBLIC WARNING MADE BY LIBYAN AMBASSADOR DAGHELI THAT THE FRG NOT ASSIST THE NETHERLANDS AS WAS SUGGESTED BY CDU FRG OPPOSITION LEADER CARSTENS. END PRESS REPORTS.

5. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, A REPRESENTATIVE OF ESSO IN BONN TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS OFFICIALS HAVE ASKED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES TO MEET THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 2 TO DISCUSS A VOLUNTARY REDUCTION BY THE COMPANIES IN THEIR DELIVERIES. COMMENT: THE "VOLUNTARY" NATURE OF THE PROGRAM IS NECESSARY SINCE THE FRG DOES NOT HAVE, AT PRESENT, THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO REDUCE DELIVERIES OR IMPOSE RATIONING.

6. COMMENT: LIBYA'S DELIVERY OF LOW SULPHUR CRUDE, AND PRODUCTS FROM THIS CRUDE, ACCOUNT FOR 25 PERCENT OF THE FRG'S OIL SUPPLY. THE IMPACT OF ANY CUT-OFF WOULD BE GREATER THAN A STRAIGHT 25 PERCENT REDUCTION SINCE MOST REFINERIES IN THE FRG USE LIBYAN CRUDE TO BLEND WITH OTHER CRUDES AND CONSEQUENTLY THESE REFINERIES ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO REFINE ONLY HIGH SULPHUR CRUDE. PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS ARE ALSO DEPENDENT ON BLENDING LOW-SULPHUR CRUDE. END COMMENT.
HILLEND BRAND

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30 JUN 2005

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